

**Remarks by Martin Mokgware, Chief Executive of BOCRA during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Botswana and BOCRA**

Director of Ceremony

Vice Chancellor of UB, Professor David Norris

BOCRA Board of Directors

BOCRA and UB Staff

Media

All invited guests,

Good morning.

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this event when the University of Botswana and BOCRA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise relations between the two institutions.
2. Today’s ceremony marks two things:
	1. The conclusion of a series of back and forth preparatory activities to draft the document to be signed today; and
	2. The start of a process for a structured dialogue and sharing of mutual knowledge for the foreseeable future between BOCRA and UB.
3. Bagaetsho, BOCRA and the UB share common interest and outlook on a lot of areas. Specifically, both institutions will play a critical role in the creation of knowledge society.
4. The UB slogan, Thuto ke Thebe, loosely translates to Education or Knowledge is Power. As an institution of higher learning and a repository for collective knowledge, UB is critical to the development of the Botswana human resources. As BOCRA we have a mission that is encapsulated in our Strategic Plan to create a digital society. As society that will live and run its daily lives on digital platforms.
5. Therefore, our areas on interest have one thing in common, creation of knowledge, something that is forever evolving. We therefore have a common a need for continuous research to ensure that the knowledge that we seek to create and or impart is relevant and keeping pace with the needs of the economy and society as they evolve. Hence, today’s MoU is a formalized process of collaboration in research and other areas of mutual interest.
6. The National Development Plan 11 acknowledges that ICTs are quickly becoming the core of all economic activities in Botswana. It is befitting that as regulator for the communications and ICT sector, BOCRA should collaborate with learning institutions for the betterment of Batswana.
7. As we begin this journey, I wish to recommend to the University of Botswana to consider taking up academic institutions membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). ITU is a United Nations Agency with the responsibility for development of ICTs globally. Taking up its membership will give the university access to a pool of research work from academic, public sector, private and technology developers.
8. It is common knowledge that innovation follows young population. Therefore, Africa Botswana included, presents opportunities to lead the world in ICT innovations of which UB should play a central role.
9. I do not wish to make a long speech the morning but just wanted to express my gratitude at the opportunity to enter into a formalized collaboration with a reputable institution like UB. I am therefore looking forward to many years of collaboration and innovative research to address problem afflicting our society.
10. I thank you for your attention.